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Viewing cable 09TEGUCIGALPA474, AMBASSADOR WARNS HONDURAN MILITARY ON COUP RUMORS

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g.

#09TEGUCIGALPA474.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09TEGUCIGALPA474	2009-06-18 17:17	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Tegucigalpa

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201105/notas/4247/>
<http://www.wikileaks.elfaro.net/es/201105/cables/4250/>

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR WARNS HONDURAN MILITARY ON COUP RUMORS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 465 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador Hugo Llorens, reason 1.4 (B&D)

¶1. (C) Ambassador, accompanied by DCM, hosted Honduran Military Joint Chief Romeo Vazquez Velasquez and Deputy Chief Miguel Garcia Padgett for breakfast on June 18 and conveyed in the strongest terms USG concerns about rumors that the military would move against the government if Honduran politicians did not reach a consensus on the legality of poll on a referendum for a constituent assembly to rewrite the constitution (reftel). The Ambassador told the two military leaders that the heavens would fall if the military made any unconstitutional move, that the USG and international community would condemn them and that democracy in Honduras and the military as an institution would be set back for years. Vazquez assured the Ambassador that the military would not make any move against the government, though admitting that they had privately threatened to do so in order to put pressure on politicians to reach a consensus.

¶2. (C) Rumors have been circulating for more than a week that the military had threatened political leaders with action to restore democracy if an agreement was not reached on the poll issue. The military is under pressure on the issue as President Manuel Mel Zelaya has ordered them to provide logistical support for the poll while an appellate court has ordered the poll illegally, and threatened any government agency that supports it with legal action. Military leaders have therefore told senior politicians from both of Honduras, two major political parties that if a resolution is not found they may have to take unspecified action against the Zelaya government. (Note: Senior Honduran military officers have told DATT that they would consider creating an administrative junta until elections are held in December for a new president and congress. In these meetings we have also made clear that such action would be totally unacceptable to the U.S.)

¶3. (C) Vasquez admitted to the Ambassador that these threats had been made, but said that their purpose was to prod politicians into reaching an agreement. Vazquez described the military's situation as intolerable, with being told by their commander-in-chief to carry out an order while being told by a court that order was illegal. Nevertheless he denied any intention to actually take action and assured the Ambassador that the military would never do anything that was not/not supported by the USG. Besides telling Vasquez that any unconstitutional action would be unacceptable, the Ambassador urged patience, telling him that we were in contact with Zelaya and senior Honduran politicians (to be reported septel) and that there was a possibility of a last minute compromise. The meeting concluded with the Ambassador and Vasquez agreeing to stay in touch.

¶4. (C) Comment: The military has found itself between a rock and a hard place, being ordered by their commander-in-chief to carry out an order ruled illegal by an appellate court. They have decided to push back and insist that Honduran politicians reach a consensus that removes the military from this dilemma. That they have made these threats is both a sign of the severity of the situation. Nevertheless, we do not/not believe that military leaders have any intention of actually moving against the legitimate government, at this time. We are actively engaged with all key actors and will continue to monitor their situation while encouraging

Honduran politicians to reach an equitable solution.
LLORENS